

Digital TV Transition, who will this affect?

Congress mandated that on February 17, 2009, all full-powered U.S. television stations will switch to 100% digital broadcasting and will no longer broadcast in analog. This switch is an important benefit as it will free up parts of the valuable broadcast spectrum for public safety communications.

There is no need to toss your TV! First check to see if your TV is digital or analog. Visit www.dtv2009.gov to assist you in making this determination. If you wish to continue using your analog television after February 17, 2009, you will need to do one of the following:

- Obtain a digital-to-analog converter box, or
- Subscribe to cable, satellite or other service

Every US household is eligible to receive up to two (2) coupons, worth \$40 each, towards the purchase of converter boxes. These coupons are good for 90 days after the date issued. To request a coupon:

- Call 1-888-388-2009
- Apply online at www.dtv2009.gov
- Fax a coupon application from the above website to 1-877-388-4632
- Mail a coupon application from the website to NTIA, P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000

What if you choose to purchase a new TV? Things you should be aware of.

If you choose to purchase a new TV, you can donate your working TV to a variety of organizations, or you can recycle it by bringing it to any Iowa-permitted Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) collection or recycling facility. A full list of permitted CRT facilities can be viewed on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website at:

<http://www.iowadnr.com/waste/recycling/files/crtsites.pdf>

When purchasing a new TV, keep in mind that by law, beginning March 1, 2007, all TV reception devices (including TVs, VCRs, DVRs etc.) imported into the U.S. or shipped in interstate commerce must contain a digital tuner. Retailers may continue to sell TVs with analog tuners from existing inventory, but must prominently display on or near these TVs a Consumer Alert label with an advisory.

Therefore, all television equipment being sold should contain a digital tuner, or should be identified at the point-of-sale as not having one.

Iowa Public Television (IPTV)

IPTV is offering a series of digital television information sessions across the state. These sessions will discuss the mandatory switch from analog to digital broadcasts, as well as addressing frequently asked questions. Visit the following websites for additional information.

- For more information on the digital switch, please visit:
www.iptv.org/digital/default.cfm
- For upcoming IPTV information session locations and dates, visit:
www.iowadigitaltv.blogspot.com/2008/01/upcoming-dtv-information-sessions.html